

# Big Sky Roundup



NEW !! MSGS Web Site:  
<http://montanamsgs.org>

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**2011-2012 Officers**

**April 2012**

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**President - Shawna Valentine**

**Newsletter Editor – Shawna Valentine**

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**2nd Vice President - Shirley Rogers**

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**Treasurer: Carol Woodley**

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**Registrar: Mary Pitch**

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Elected: Sept. 2005 (4th term ends 2013)

**Past President: Betty Marshall**

Box # 476, Chester, MT 59522  
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## President's Message

The Montana State Genealogical Society has a new web address!

**We are now found at:**  
<http://montanamsgs.org>

The conversion is almost complete. The most notable exception is the Norske I Montana data, which are the marriage & naturalization records of Norwegian settlers from the northeastern part of the state. These will be added soon (hopefully by the first part of May?), so please check back.

Hopefully the changes will make the website easier to navigate and use. One of the most notable changes is that the Earliest to 2002 Montana Death Index no longer requires special software to read online.

*Shawna Valentine  
President (& Webmaster)*



## Summary of March 24, 2012 MSGS Board Meeting

The MSGS Board met in Helena, Montana on March 24, 2012 with 8 board members present. President Shawna Valentine called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. The minutes of the previous board meeting were read and approved with one correction. The treasurer's report was handed out. Treasurer Carol Woodley plans to retire in July due to medical issues. It was decided to add Shirley

Rogers as an additional signer for the bank accounts until a new treasurer is elected at the Conference in the fall. Carol also wanted to know if there was some place to store old records. It was decided to store historic records at the State Genealogy Library in Helena.

Verba Valentine, 1st VP, reported on the plans for the 2012 Conference to be held in Billings on September 19-21 at the Big Horn Resort. The theme will be "Digging Up Roots". D. Joshua Taylor has been contracted as the main speaker. Other speakers will be Robert Larson from Colorado, Kevin Kooistra and Joyce Jensen from Billings. There will possibly be a grave dowsing demonstration. There will be tours to the BLM Public Area, a Thursday night reception and a scheduled Society Roundtable. Registration Flyers will be out in July. The cost will be \$95.00 for registration and three meals. The room rate will be \$99.00 plus tax for up to four persons in a room with a hot breakfast included. T-shirts and vests will be available for purchase. Yellowstone Forum will furnish the bags.

The 2013 Conference will be in Bozeman at the Holiday Inn on September 26-28, 2013. The room rate will be \$99.00 plus tax, but no breakfast included. There is a restaurant.

Shirley Rogers, 2nd VP, will order 100 pins at \$333.00. It was decided to put the MSGS pins without loops, in the registration bags but there will be no exchanges. She will also fix up a surname and message board for the conference.

Mary Pitch, Registrar, reported we now have 16 societies and 665 members. Kalispell is getting their society going and Bozeman is in the planning stages.

Librarian Karen Huck reported they are caught up cataloging donated books. Queries are being answered and Lewis and Clark Society is working on a school census database with the Lewis and Clark Preservation Office.

Historian Pat Ludwig brought two of the smaller albums to show.

Shirley Rogers is not sure she will be able to go to FGS as her parents are very ill.

Shawna has the new website about finished.

Applications for First Families and Early Settlers for Volume IV are coming in slowly. Someone from Texas had a fire and lost all their records. They would like a new certificate & copies of the records they sent in.

It was decided to cancel our advertising in the Senior News and put an ad in the Billings Gazette for First Families and Early Settlers.

Mary Pitch is going to man a table at the Scots-Irish Festival in Hamilton next summer.

The following offices are up for election; President, 1st Vice President and Treasurer.

The next Roundup deadline is April 11, 2012. The next meeting will be July 21, 2012 at 10 AM in Billings, Montana.

Marilyn Lewis, Secretary

## MSGS TREASURER SUMMARY January 1, 2012 – March 24, 2012

### EXPENSES

2012 Conference Pins	333.00
FGS Dues	85.00
Montana State Library	107.51
Newsletter	121.00
State Annual Tax Report	15.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$661.51

### INCOME

Club & Individual Memberships	680.00
Interest Income	0.20
TOTAL INCOME	\$680.20
CHECKING BALANCE	\$2,252.37
SAVINGS BALANCE	\$ 12,829.24 = \$15,081.61

*Carol Woodley, Treasurer*

421 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Livingston, MT 59047

## **Conference Tidbits**, submitted by Verba Valentine, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Societies will have the opportunity to have a table to display your activities during the year and to also sell your products. Other societies are looking for projects and appreciate seeing what we all are doing. It would be great if all of our societies would get behind this and sign up for a table. If you do have items to sell the table must be manned to prevent the sale items from being picked up as freebies.

If a society would like to provide a basket or item to be included in the raffle that would be great.

Start now to collect books for the book frolic. Remember we cannot accept magazines, periodicals or outdated material.

Also remember door prizes. Everyone enjoys winning a prize!

You asked for a bulletin board for posting surnames and email addresses. Shirley Rogers will be taking care of this.

Please contact me for any of the above. Verba Valentine at [blgsmarket@aol.com](mailto:blgsmarket@aol.com)

## **MSGs Library Report**, submitted by Karen Huck

We received copies of six family books from our MSGS members Wesley & Donna Peterson from Humble, Texas. Some of them had been cataloged and uploaded to OCLC (online computer library catalog) and the others we had to catalog. OCLC is a database that is maintained by libraries that belong to it. As a member of Montana Shared Catalog, we are required to be a member of OCLC. Every month, the books that are in our computer library catalog are uploaded to OCLC. This then is searchable for anyone by going to [worldcat.org](http://worldcat.org). Remember that any books that you donate to our library, we will catalog them so they are available to others to know that they exist. Our library has many family books, come browse or search the library catalog.

Kalispell Public Library donated extra city directories to the State Library. It is great that we can receive and share books that other libraries are deleting from their collections.

Montana Shared Catalog has been receiving proposals from software vendors for our library catalogs. I am pleased that they have decided to stay with SiriDynix that we are currently using. Many software packages did not have the ability to handle all the different types of libraries that are members, as we share the software with over 150 libraries in the state. Mary and I will be attending the semi-annual Montana Shared Catalog meeting in Lewistown, May 3 & 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Election Notice**

Due to illness, Carol Woodley, the current Treasurer of the Montana State Genealogical Society is resigning her office as of July 1, 2012. As a result, we are in need of a person to fill this office. You are being sent this email because our records show you are a current member of a local Genealogical Society that belongs to MSGS and consequently are also a member of MSGS. The person who fills this office is needed to make a conscientious effort to attend all the MSGS Board Meetings. These are usually held in Helena on a Saturday morning in March, July, & October. Also, there are two meetings during the annual conference each year in September. After completing Carol's term, the office is elected for a 2-year term at our September 2012 Conference in Billings.

According to Article VI Section 5 of the MSGS Bylaws, the duties of the Treasurer are as follows:

The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Society, shall deposit them in insured institutions or invest them pursuant to Executive Board Policy; shall make disbursements as directed by the Executive Board, and shall be responsible for the collection of all dues, fees, and debts owing to the Society. The Treasurer shall make an end of the year financial statement at the close of the fiscal year, which is September 30, and shall distribute the statement to the membership. The financial records of the State Society shall be audited by the Audit Committee within sixty days after the close of the fiscal year.

If you are interested in becoming more active in the State Society, I encourage you to consider serving as our Treasurer and advising Betty Marshall, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Her email address is: [bubbles@itstriangle.com](mailto:bubbles@itstriangle.com)

Thinking beyond July, the Offices of President & 1st Vice President are also up for re-election. The current office holders have agreed to serve another term in these offices, but we always welcome new faces. The main duty of the 1st Vice President is to plan the Annual Conference. If you are interested in serving in either of these positions, please contact Betty by September 1st.



## Montana State Genealogical Society

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Conference

Hosted by the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum

September 20, 21, 22, 2012  
Big Horn Resort, Billings MT

### **GREAT SPEAKERS, GOOD FOOD, RENEW FRIENDSHIPS!**

Mark your calendars and plan on attending. Registration forms will be available in July.

#### **Speakers for the conference are:**

**D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS** of Boston MA will be the National Speaker with the following topics  
Bridging the Gap: Finding Ancestors in the United States between 1780-1830  
New Tools and Ideas in Research  
Online Resources for Colonial America  
Successful Searching Online: Clustering for Genealogists

**Robert Larson**, from Fort Collins CO  
Locating your Ancestors Underground.  
*(A grave dowsing opportunity will be available after the conference on Saturday if enough are interested.)*  
Are You My Great-Great Grandfather? DNA and Your Genealogy

**Kevin Kooistra**, Western Heritage Center, Billings  
A Meeting by the River: The First Crow Agency 1869-1875

**Joyce Jensen**, Western Heritage Center, Billings. Banquet Speaker  
Pieces and Places of Billings History

Society Roundtable with Shawna Valentine, Moderator

**There will be two tours on Thursday of the Bureau of Land Management Public Records with Cathy Carlisle. Each participant will have the opportunity to submit one name for research.**

Plus -- Book Frolic, Society Genealogical Items for sale, Society Displays, etc.

Rooms at the beautiful new Big Horn Resort will be \$99 per night plus tax. There are King and 2 Bed rooms available. Hot breakfast included. Deadline for room reservations is September 7. Phone is 406-839-9300 with Group Code GENE

**2 Day Full Registration is only \$45.00 without meals  
or \$95.00 with two lunches and the banquet meal.**



WE WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO PUBLISH  
YOUR SOCIETY'S NEWS.

Please submit items to Shawna at  
smv2222@bresnan.net

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## **Broken Mountains Genealogical Society – Chester**

We have our projects to finish, but was happy to hear our work with the burial records getting into Find A Grave has been updated and now has all the names and dates. Now we just have to start taking more photos of the gravestones and copying obituaries. We are just waiting for nice warm spring days to go out and photograph the headstones.

At our last meeting we answered a request for information about our town and everyone went to work going through the material in our library. We found a great deal of info and since she must do her report without the aid of a computer search engine, we were surprised with what we could find and will be sending her more very soon.

Betty Marshall is coordinating efforts to order vests for the state society and we are encouraging more participation in the state by going to the state conferences to be held in the Fall.

Submitted by Pat Ludwig, BMGS Liaison

## **Flathead Valley Genealogical Society – Kalispell**

Inspired by last year's conference in Kalispell, attendees from the Flathead area were inspired to form a local society. Progress has been good and they have had a couple of meetings this year. They hope to be up and running as a society by their May meeting. There is a potential for 47 members at this time.

## **Gallatin County Genealogy Society – Bozeman**

Hi! We are currently working on reviving the Gallatin County Genealogy Society...we have a meeting May 1st at 7pm in the small meeting room of Bozeman Public Library.

We are just trying to find out how much interest there is in the county & then we will set up another meeting, whatever works best for everyone involved! If you have questions or are interested in helping us get going, please give me (Michelle) a call at 581-3198 or show up at the May 1st meeting. THANK YOU!!!

Submitted by Michelle Westberg

## **Lewis & Clark County Genealogy Society – Helena**

Election of officers took place at our February meeting. The current officers are: President—Mary Pitch; Vice President—Bary Bender; Secretary—Elizabeth Guevin; Treasurer—Pat Duncan; Board Member—Kathy Patrick. Our second board member, Gail Kramlick is in her second year of her 2 year term.

The February program was entitled: Preparing for a trip to Salt Lake. Handouts included a description of each floor of the Family History Library, places to stay and places to eat. At our March meeting Karen Huck & Rita Gibson talked about "Organizing Your Genealogy on Your Computer" including how to make folders and bookmarking favorite sites. At our April meeting, we watched a DVD entitled "The Fall and Rise of the Steamboat Arabia", an 1856 steamboat filled with westbound supplies discovered buried in a Kansas cornfield in 1988.

We look forward to participating in the City/County Historic Preservation Commission's 4th Annual History Fair on the walking mall on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is "MILITARY IN MONTANA: 1880-WWII." The Race for the Cure takes place that morning, the Fair will be going on downtown on the walking Mall between 10 and 3 and there will be an ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE at 1:00 p.m. on the Mall. We invite you to come to Helena and participate in all of the events! ☺

Submitted by Mary Pitch, LCCGS President

## Yellowstone Genealogy Forum – Billings

Yellowstone Genealogy Forum has had several events in the past months in addition to the program meetings. In December, Judy Cohen and Jason Herman helped a dozen Boy Scouts earn genealogy badges. Working at the Parmly Billings Library, they gave the boys hands-on experience with research in the Montana Room, the Gen Room, and in the computer lab. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Forum had a booth at the Black Otter Scout Show. Our booth included a display of club activities, a TV/VCR which played a tape on cemetery research and two computers with Internet access. We talked to 45 people and helped two women look up information. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, we held a class on the website USGENWEB in the computer lab at Parmly Billings Library. The nine attendees received personal help from Forum members.

Monthly programs:

“Heritage Quest” by Kathy Robins of Parmly Billings Library. Kathy is a genealogist and a librarian so was quite knowledgeable on the various parts of Heritage Quest.

“Mexican Colonia in Billings” by Esther Rivera. The Colonia was built in 1923 by Western Sugar behind the sugar factory. It allowed the Mexican families to stay in Billings year round.

“Carbon County Historical Museum” by Donna Madson & Cathy Wiltgen. Red Lodge was a coal mining community as well as being in the Wild West. Liver Eatin’ Johnston was town constable. Many items in the museum’s collection came from bronc rider Alice Greenough. CCHM has searchable archives that are open to the public.

The Forum is planning a trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City June 17-23. If you are interested in joining us, contact Ann Ferguson at 406-248-4082.

Judy Cohen is finishing the Beth Aaron Cemetery project. She entered obituaries and photos of headstones in the website “Find A Grave”. Now she is creating a book of the records to present to Congregation Beth Aaron Synagogue. A copy of it will also be in the Gen Room.

All records of the Settergren-Carey Funeral home have been scanned. Jason Herman is creating an index. Eventually, the information will be loaded on the computer in the Gen Room.

The Forum’s BIG project this year is hosting the annual MSGS conference in September. The speakers, food, and location should be fantastic. Mark your calendars for September 20-22.

Submitted by P. J. Smith, YGF President

## MSGS Vests Available for Purchase at the September 2012 Conference



By popular demand, MSGS Vests will be available for purchase at the September Conference in Billings. Advance orders will be taken with Conference Registrations, which will be mailed and on our website in July.

The new vests will still be made of nice, cozy fleece, in the same style as shown in the picture. **However, they will be charcoal grey this time around.** The MSGS Logo will be embroidered as shown here.

Cost per vest will be \$40.00, sizes S thru XXXXL



**The Roundup** accepts submissions of historical and genealogical interest that have a Montana connection. Examples include, but are not limited to, brief family or town histories, Church or Court Records, Cemetery transcriptions, Newspaper abstracts, Bible Records, Letters, descriptions of holdings and hours of Research Facilities within the state, and instate attractions of historical interest. Photos may also be accepted if some type of written description of the photo's content accompanies them. All submitted materials must include a cover letter from the submitter giving Montana State Genealogical Society permission to publish.

Questions, proposed articles and photos may be sent electronically to Shawna Valentine. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject any submitted material, as well as the right to edit copy.

## Family Postcards of Montana

by James R. Miller (jim@philgen.org)

Postcards can be a source of genealogical information and a glimpse at our ancestor's daily life. This paper presents an old postcard and a real photo postcard from Montana to introduce the philatelic genealogy website and database *Philgen.org* (<http://philgen.org>).

John E. Gage of Anaconda received a postcard from Schenectady, N.Y. postmarked on 26 October 1907. [Figure 1] The text begins "Dear Cousin Jack" and is signed "Carrie." A John E. Gage, born in N.Y., is

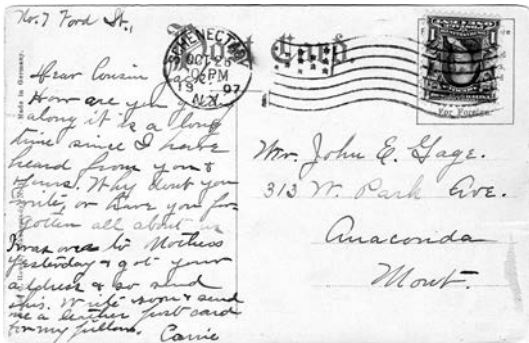


Figure 1

in Anaconda in the 1910 census.<sup>1</sup> An online family tree shows that George E. Gage, John's father, had a sister Charlotte Gage, who married James E. Corl.<sup>2</sup> James E. Corl had a daughter Caroline ("Carrie") Corl, who married Henry R. Chadsey in 1897, and Henry R. and Carrie Chadsey are in Schenectady in the 1900 and 1910 censuses.<sup>3</sup> John E. Gage is in Schenectady in the 1900 census, living with Carrie's father James E. Corl and shown as a nephew.<sup>4</sup> Carrie asks that John send her a "leather post card for my pillow." Leather postcards, which could be sewn together to make a pillow, were popular in the "golden age" of postcard collecting from 1907-1915.

Marshall Drennen, sitting on a bicycle, and his grandfather appear on an unmailed real photo postcard (RPPC) taken in Miles City circa 1914. [Figure 2] "Grand Pa Drennen and Marshal at home in Miles City" is written on the back. Seven year-old Marshall Drennen is with his father James U. in Custer County (where Miles City is located) in the 1920 census, and William T. and James U. Drennan, father and son, are in Miles City in the 1900 census.<sup>5</sup> RPPCs, produced singly or in limited quantities by amateur and local commercial photographers, were especially popular 1910-1920.<sup>6</sup> A second RPPC taken 12 May 1916 shows Marshall and his mother (viewable on *Philgen.org*, search on Drennen).



Figure 2

Four other Montana postcards with sender and recipient details are viewable on *Philgen.org* by searching on the recipient's family name or city. Rita K. Shields of Lewistown received a postcard from her Aunt Lucy (Hess) Marrs. Carl E. Ellis of Harlem wrote to his grandmother Jane Everette in 1912. Mary (Pratt) Hall of Red Rock received a postcard from her niece Mertice Pratt in 1908. Jennie (Canaday) Russell of Billings wrote to her sister Minnie Canaday in 1912. Envelope and postcard photographs also illustrate our ancestors' work, military service, travel, political and social interests, and may show where an ancestor lived before emigrating to the U.S. or Canada. Please visit *Philgen.org* to search the database and view article reprints.

<sup>1</sup> 1910 U.S. census, Deer Lodge Co., Montana, Anaconda, ward 1, ED 12, sheet 1A; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA T624, roll 831. The author thanks Jim Forte Postal History for Figure 1.

<sup>2</sup> "Winstead1-1\_2011-05-27\_2011-06-30\_2011-07-31" family tree, owner: JaryW, no source is shown, Ancestry.com.

<sup>3</sup> Family tree shown in note 2; 1900 U.S. census, Schenectady Co., N.Y., pop. schedule, Schenectady, ward 3, ED 129, sheet 8B; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA T623, roll 1,160; 1910 U.S. census, Schenectady Co., N.Y., Schenectady, ward 2, ED 181, sheet 5A; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA T624, roll 1,077.

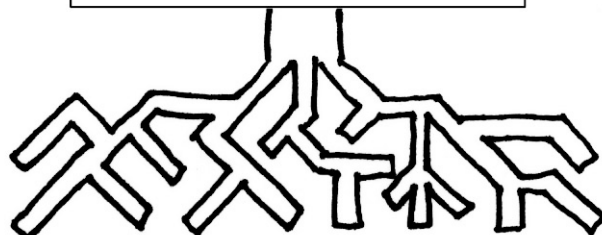
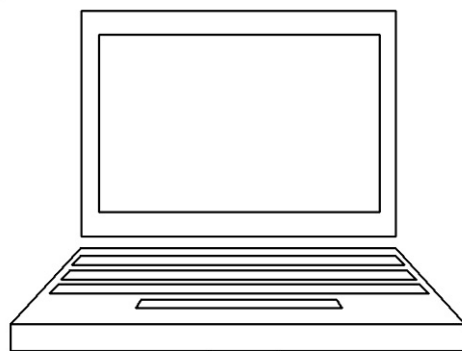
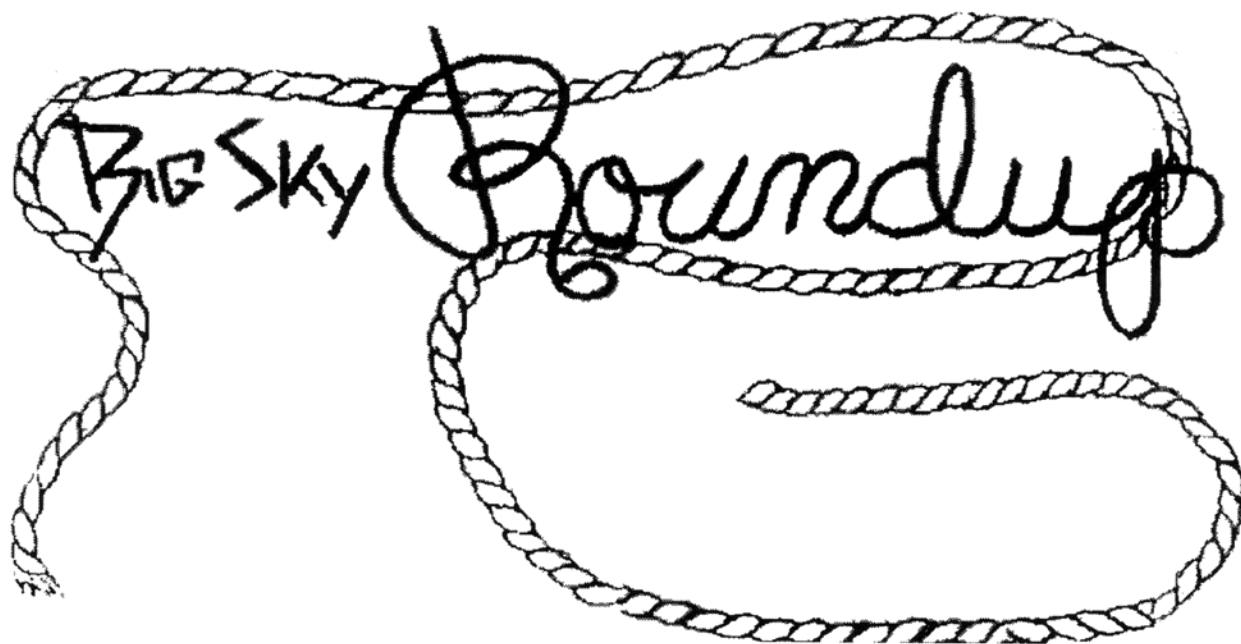
<sup>4</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Schenectady Co., N.Y., Schenectady, ward 3, ED 129, sheet 21A; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA T623, roll 1,160.

<sup>5</sup> 1920 U.S. census, Custer Co., Montana, school district 3, ED 33, sheet 8B; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA T625, roll 969; 1900 U.S. census, Custer Co., Montana, Miles City, ED 202, sheet 20B; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA T623, roll 910.

<sup>6</sup> Robert Bogdan and Todd Weseloh, *Real Photo Postcard Guide, The People's Photography* (Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 2006), pp. 10-11, 19.



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## DIGGING UP ROOTS

Montana State Genealogical Society  
23rd Annual Conference  
20, 21, 22 September 2012 Billings